

# Relational Knowledge & Creative Practice

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Editors  
Tadeja Zupancic, Claus Peder Pedersen

Photographer  
Tadeja Zupancic

Graphic Design  
Hanne Van Den Biesen & Sam Dieltjens

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# ADAPT-r Partner Behaviour

*Eli Hatleskog, Richard Blythe, Johan  
Verbeke, Tadeja Zupancic,  
Veronika Valk, Sally Stewart and  
Claus Peder Pedersen*

### Interactions leading from partners to ADAPT-R

The network partners have been selected to provide geographic and institutional diversity to ensure the greatest possible 'reach' of the programme – including more recent and regional EU members. Importantly, all network partners have been involved in different ways and to a different degree in the three-year trial period pioneered by KU Leuven (Sint-Lucas) and RMIT and have now reached the crucial stage of being able to fully endorse the proposed European model of this research training scheme in the current format. It is part of a distinctive European signature that this ground-breaking network includes a traditional European university, and institutions with art academy and technical school histories. These diverse institutional types have a shared interest in creative practice research and provide potential models for other institutions in the future development of this research area with an intended impact and relevance well beyond European borders.

KU Leuven (Sint-Lucas) and RMIT/RMIT ES have considerable experience and appropriate campus resources in Europe for hosting the PRS and associated key activities of ADAPT-r located centrally in Europe. KU Leuven (Sint-Lucas) span the disciplines of Urban Design, Landscape Architecture, Interior Architecture, Architecture and Fine Arts. The KU Leuven Associatie Sint-Lucas School of Arts has a long-standing collaboration with the School of Architecture and engages actively in the project.

Aarhus School of Architecture has a track record in project-based doctorates and strong links with venturesome practice. These strengths in a closely aligned doctoral model will contribute to the development of a high-quality practice-based doctorate.

The University of Westminster has a long tradition in creative practice research. At the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) in 2008, 20% of research in Architecture and the Built Environment was evaluated as 'world-leading' and a further 40% as 'internationally excellent', placing the School high in research rankings among other Schools of Architecture in the UK. The evaluation panel mentioned in particular research by design. The Westminster School of Media Art and Design has a long tradition in art research and engages actively in the project.

The University of Ljubljana has a strong track record as a research institution and offers a flexible and open doctoral programme in architecture at the Faculty of Architecture, where research by design represents a key orientation that is strongly integrated in its interdisciplinary context. The Academy of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Ljubljana brings its specific

competence in Design.

The Estonian Academy of Arts also has experience in dealing with creative practice in a research environment. The range of research varies from policy practices in historic protection to artistic practices in new media. Thus, the agile Doctoral School in Tallinn spans the multiple disciplines of ADAPT-r, offering a valuable and unique perspective placed as it is, both historically and geographically, on the edge of Europe.

RMIT ES has a campus in Barcelona, Spain, with facilities and staff suitable for supporting and hosting PRS events and hosting EU based fellows as part of the ADAPT-r. RMIT ES are able to draw, where necessary, on the considerable resources of its parent institution RMIT.

The Glasgow School of Art is internationally recognised as one of Europe's foremost university-level institutions for creative education and research in fine art, design and architecture, fostering the conditions for creativity in order to promote critical thinking, experimentation, discovery and innovation. Its distinctive pedagogy and research promote studio culture as the basis for creative communities, the meeting ground for diversity of opinion, independence of thought and learning from each other. (Annex 1 pp18-19)

Where the partner institutions are each self-standing entities, ADAPT-r works across and with these individual institutions, in turn, ADAPT-r follows years of interactions between the partners. The following timeline aims to give an indication of some of the public behaviours of the partners.

# Institutional View of Partners to ADAPT-R

This time-line will show some of the collaborations that have led to the network, with a view to understanding some of the public behaviours that have generated ADAPT-r.

## 1986-2004

Leon van Schaik initiates a PhD by practice strategy at RMIT. He invites Gerard De Zeeuw and Ranulph Glanville among others to develop a master programme into a PhD training.

Other current ADAPT-r partners developed their own research traditions in parallel. Sint-Lucas developed the personal platform for the research training. The doctoral training in architecture in Ljubljana, for instance, developed from more theory focused doctorates in the sixties towards a more balanced, in the majority of cases hybrid integration of theory and practice.

## 2001

Ranulph Glanville informs Johan Verbeke about the vision and developments at RMIT. Johan understands the potential for Sint-Lucas and architectural research and plans to visit Melbourne.

## 2005

*The Unthinkable Doctorate: PhDesign in Architecture?* - Conference at Sint-Lucas, Brussels.

Johan Verbeke visits RMIT, Melbourne for the first time and will continue to do so during the following years.

## 2006

Richard Blythe and Leon van Schaik are invited to 'RIBA Research Symposium 2006: *Making the difference: Design Practice as Research*'. *Convenor: Kate Heron of Westminster.*

Research Training Sessions (RTS) at Sint-Lucas begin to develop 'research by/through design' and result in the publication of *Reflections 3*. Johan Verbeke invites Leon and Kate to run a session as a part of the RTS.

## 2007

Richard Blythe develops a new strategic plan for the A&D school at RMIT and one key element of that plan is to develop international opportunities for the PhD model.

The proceedings of *The Unthinkable Doctorate: PhDesign in Architecture?* is published and shared with future ADAPT-r partner, Tadeja Zupančič from the University of Ljubljana.

Leon van Schaik is invited to the Mackintosh School of Art, Glasgow School of Art, and gives a lecture about Practice Based Research, before holding a seminar with senior staff on the development of practice based doctoral models

## 2008

*Reflections 7* is published by Sint-Lucas, the book is co-edited by future RMIT PhD graduates Jo Van Den Berghe and Arnaud Hendrickx.

## 2006-9

A project is envisioned which might replicate the RMIT program in a second international centre. The RMIT's invitational program is trialled at Sint-Lucas, Brussels

## 2009

A bilateral agreement is made between RMIT and Sint-Lucas: [To] *recognize the mutual interest of cooperation activities between both institutes, especially in relation to developing research by design and embedded design practice.*

Communicating (by) Design, Conference staged at Sint-Lucas, Brussels.

Tadeja Zupancic presents at the conference and 'research by design' is accredited as a visible option of PhD research approach in architecture, which can be combined with others, at the University of Ljubljana, following a two-year accreditation process.

Leon van Schaik presents an exhibition of ideograms relating to the PhD by Invitation at the University of Westminster and in Ljubljana..

Richard Blythe presents the RMIT model for the PhD by design at the Estonian Academy of Arts, Tallinn.



## 2009 - onwards

RMIT's invitational PhD program hosted by Sint-Lucas - Ghent. Through an alliance with the Sint-Lucas School in Belgium RMIT is able to begin to offer PhDs in Europe and it was this initiative that led to the formation of the current PRS program based in Ghent and Barcelona.

## 2010

The first RMIT EU Research Symposium Weekend with GRC in Ghent.

The Aarhus School of Architecture send a delegation to both the GRS Melbourne and the EU Research Symposium in Ghent, with a view to adopting the RMIT programme at the school.

Veronika Valk, future ADAPT-r partner representing the Estonian Academy of Arts, enrolls as a candidate for the PhD by practice at the RMIT.

## 2011-2012

Johan Verbeke introduces and hosts 4 meetings between the future consortium members of ADAPT-r to define the direction and collaboration. Johan and Richard together work on the application text.

Johan Verbeke visits the Estonian Academy of Arts in Tallinn and gives a lecture on Developments in Research by Design(ing).

Richard Blythe takes up a Velux Fellowship at the Aarhus School of Architecture. The development and refinement of the idea that became ADAPT-r took place largely in Denmark. During this time Richard Blythe wrote the draft agenda and application for ADAPT-r in close collaboration with Marcelo Stamm (RMIT), with input from Claus Peder Pederson (Aarhus School of Architecture) and Johan Verbeke. Johan Visits Richard and Claus in Aarhus. The application for EU funding sought one of the largest amounts ever given to creative practice research, at just over four million Euros, with KU Leuven (Sint-Lucas) as project coordinator. In January 2012 Johan finalized the application draft.

In the process of writing the grant application, a number of changes were made with regard to the invitational programme at the RMIT, one of these related to the scope and experiences of potential candidates. Where the RMIT PhD by practice had been

conceived in the department of architecture, as a way of developing and explicating knowledge relating to architectural design practice, the ADAPT-r remit was broader and sought to include arts other than architecture. This is in line with developments in artistic research in Europe.

University of Ljubljana and the Glasgow School of Art begin regular participation in the Graduate Research Conference in Ghent.

## 2013

Start of ADAPT-r grant, however, technical difficulties delay the engagement of ESRs until mid 2014.

*Knowing (by) Designing* - Conference at Sint-Lucas, Brussels.

*Community of Practice* – conference organised by the Estonian Academy of Arts, Faculty of Architecture.

First call for ADAPT-r fellows.

## 2014

ADAPT-r ITN:

Implementation of the ADAPT-r ITN will result in 32 Fellowships, 8 training conferences, a major research conference, a major exhibition, three key books, and a web site providing public access to research and events.

*Mediators* - ADAPT-r Creative Practice Research Conference at Sint-Lucas, Brussels.

ADAPT-r Outreach event held in the Mackintosh Building, Glasgow School of Art, with presentations on the ITN, Fellowships and practice based research.

Johan Verbeke, Claus Peder Pedersen and Sally Stewart present the ADAPT-r network at the ELIA (European League of Institutes of Art) Biennale held in Glasgow.

Two further calls for ADAPT-r fellows.

## 2015

ADAPT-r Days at Westminster, Ljubljana and Sint-Lucas, Brussels.

ER Fellow Landscape Summit held at Glasgow School of Art.

*Making Research – Researching Making* – ADAPT-r Creative Practice Research Conference at Aarhus School of Architecture.

Final call for ADAPT-r Fellows.

## **2016**

The remaining ESRs and ERs take up their fellowships. There have been several doctorates awarded through ADAPT-r. Further ADAPT-r days have been organized in Westminster, Ljubljana and Glasgow. A Landscape Day has been organized in Paris. As for the future, each of the enrolled ESRs has the potential to complete a PhD at their host institution. In turn, some of the partners may wish to evolve or refine the ADAPT-r model within their own institutions.

To mark the end of ADAPT-r, in 2016, there is a major exhibition staged at the University of Westminster. This exhibition aims to showcase both the ADAPT-r method and the outcomes of the research in the network.